

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 EUR-08 L-01 H-02 INR-05

PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

OMB-01 /052 W

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R 130915Z NOV 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4741

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2179

LIMDIS NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR NK CH AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA-DPRK RELATIONS; CHINESE ATTITUDE

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS TOLD US OF WHAT SEEM TO BE
SOLID INDICATIONS THAT CHINESE HAVE BEEN UNHAPPY WITH
NORTH KOREAN HANDLING OF RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA.

2. WHEN CHARGE WATSON AND OTHER FOUR MEMBERS OF PYONGYANG
EMBASSY STAFF WERE AT RAILROAD STATION NOV 8 PREPARING TO
BOARD TRAIN FOR PEKING, CHINESE AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS THERE
TO SEE OF NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION, POINTEDLY INTERRUPTED
HIS GOODBYES TO NORTH KOREANS AND MOVED TO AUSTRALIAN
GROUP. CHINESE AMBASSADOR SHOOK HANDS WITH WATSON AND
EACH OF OTHER FOUR MEMBERS IN FULL VIEW OF DISAPPROVING
NORTH KOREANS. CHINESE AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED WATSON
FOR FRIENDLY FAREWELL CALL ON PREVIOUS DAY.

3. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE TELEPHONED CHINESE FOREIGN
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MINISTRY AT 11:30 A.M. ON DAY (NOV 6) WATSON NOTIFIED

OF EXPULSION FROM PYONGYANG TO ASK CHINESE ASSISTANCE
IN OBTAINING ENTRY VISAS FOR FIVE AUSTRALIANS COMING
FROM PYONGYANG. CHINESE MFA OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY TOLD
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY THAT CHINESE WOULD CONFIRM TO
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PRECISELY AT 2:30 P.M. THAT
VISA ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE. AT APPOINTED TIME,
CHINESE DID CONFIRM VISA ARRANGEMENTS AND PRC EMBASSY
IN PYONGYANG PLACED VISAS IN AUSTRALIAN PASSPORTS
THERE BY 5:00 P.M. AUSTRALIANS HERE WERE MUCH IMPRESSED
BY SPEED AND COURTESY WITH WHICH THE CHINESE HANDLED
THE VISA PROCEDURES.

4. AFTER NORTH KOREANS HAD LEFT CANBERRA BUT BEFORE
AUSTRALIANS EXPELLED FROM PYONGYANG, MFA DIRECTOR OF
AMERICAS AND OCEANIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT LIN PING HAD
VOLUNTEERED TO AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR FITZGERALD THAT
EXIT FROM CANBERRA "MOST UNFORTUNATE" BUT, LIN CONTINUED,
AS LONG AS THE KOREANS AND AUSTRALIANS KEEP TALKING THE
ISSUE WOULD NOT BECOME TOO SERIOUS. (COMMENT: LIN SEEMS
TO HAVE UNDERESTIMATED KOREANS' HARD-HEADEDNESS ON THIS
ISSUE.)

5. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS HELD THESE DETAILS
CLOSELY AND ASKS THAT WE NOT REFLECT OUR KNOWLEDGE OF
THEM BACK TO THE GOA.
BUSH

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